What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for removing an area from a raster image, comprising the steps of:

defining a target area in a raster image, said raster image having a plurality of pixels and an object area comprised of a first subset of said pixels, and said target area comprising said object area enclosed by a contour;

defining a resizable target feathering area enclosing said target area , having an inner edge abutting said contour enclosing said target area, and comprising a second subset of pixels not including said first subset of pixels;

defining a movable template area comprising a third subset of pixels and a template feathering area comprising a fourth subset of pixels;

copying said template area pixels to said target area and said template feathering area pixels to said target feathering area, replacing said first subset of pixels of said object area; and

selecting said template area.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein defining said target feathering area comprises enclosing said target area with a second contour having a shape substantially the same as said contour enclosing said target area.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said contours are polygons.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said second polygon has sides parallel to corresponding sides of said polygon enclosing said target area.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said target feathering area is larger than said target area.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising receiving input regarding movement of an input device pointer in relation to the position of said target area; and adjusting the size of said target feathering area based on said movement.

7. The method of claim 3, wherein said target area definition step further comprises:

receiving input from an input device to select vertices of said polygon; and

connecting adjacent ones of said vertices to form said polygon.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising feathering said pixels copied into said target feathering area.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said feathering of said pixels copied into said target feathering area comprises applying a graduated transparency to said copied pixels copied into said target feathering area.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving input from an input device to move said template area and said template feathering area;

moving said template area and said template feathering area to a different location of said image comprising a third subset of pixels; and

copying said third subset of pixels to said target area and said fourth subset of pixels to said target feathering area.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said template area is defined to have the same size, shape and configuration as said target area and said template feathering area is defined to have the same size, shape and configuration as said target feathering area.

12. A computer system for removing an object from a raster image, comprising:

a target area definition tool, operative to define a polygonal target area in a raster image, wherein said target area and said raster image comprise a plurality of pixels;

a feathering area definition tool, operative to define a target feathering area around said target area;

a template choice tool, operative to replace pixels in said target area with pixels in a template; and

means for selecting said template.

13. The computer system of claim 12, wherein said target area is enclosed in a contour.

14. The computer system of claim 13, wherein said contour is a polygon, and wherein said target area definition tool further comprises:

means for receiving input from an input device to select vertices of said polygon; and

means for connecting adjacent ones of said vertices to form said polygon.

15. The computer system of claim 14, wherein said target feathering area is a polygon having sides parallel to corresponding sides of said target area polygon.

16. The computer system of claim 12, wherein said target feathering area has a shape substantially the same as the shape of said target area.

17. The computer system of claim 12, wherein said target feathering area is larger than said target area.

18. The computer system of claim 17, wherein the size of said target feathering area is determined by movement of an input device pointer in relation to the position of said target area.

19. The computer system of claim 12, wherein said feathering area definition tool further comprises:

means for copying pixels from said template feathering area to said target feathering area; and

means for feathering said pixels copied into said target feathering area.

20. The computer system of claim 19, wherein said feathering of said pixels copied into said target feathering area comprises a graduated transparency to said copied pixels.

21. The computer system of claim 12, wherein said template choice tool further comprises: means for moving said template and said template feathering area to a different location of said image and updating said target area and said target feathering area with pixels from said different location.

22. A computer useable information storage medium storing computer readable program code for causing a computer to perform the steps of:

defining a target area in a raster image, said raster image having a plurality of pixels and an object area comprised of a first subset of said pixels, and said target area comprising said object area enclosed by a contour;

defining a resizable target feathering area enclosing said target area , having an inner edge abutting said contour enclosing said target area, and comprising a second subset of pixels not including said first subset of pixels;

defining a movable template area comprising a third subset of pixels and a template feathering area comprising a fourth subset of pixels;

copying said template area pixels to said target area and said template feathering area pixels to said target feathering area, replacing said first subset of pixels of said object area; and

selecting said template area.

23. The computer useable information storage medium of claim 22, wherein defining said target feathering area comprises enclosing said target area with a second contour having a shape substantially the same as said contour enclosing said target area.

24. The computer useable information storage medium of claim 23, wherein said contours are polygons.

25. The computer useable information storage medium of claim 24, wherein said second polygon has sides parallel to corresponding sides of said target area polygon.

26. The computer useable information storage medium of claim 22, wherein said target feathering area is larger than said target area.

27. The computer useable information storage medium of claim 22, further comprising program code for causing a computer to perform the steps of receiving input regarding movement of an input device pointer in relation to the position of said target area; and adjusting the size of said target feathering area based on said movement.

28. The computer useable information storage medium of claim 24, wherein said target area definition step further comprises:

receiving input from an input device to select vertices of said polygon; and

connecting adjacent ones of said vertices to form said polygon.

29. The computer useable information storage medium of claim 22, further comprising program code for causing a computer to perform the steps of feathering said pixels copied into said target feathering area.

30. The computer useable information storage medium of claim 29, wherein said feathering of said pixels copied into said target feathering area comprises applying a graduated transparency to said pixels copied into said target feathering area.

31. The computer useable information storage medium of claim 22, further comprising program code for causing a computer to perform the steps of:

receiving input from an input device to move said template area and said template feathering area;

moving said template area and said template feathering area to a different location of said image comprising a third subset of pixels; and

copying said third set of pixels to said target area and said target feathering area.

32. The computer useable information storage medium of claim 22, wherein said template area is defined to have the same size, shape and configuration as said target area and said template feathering area is defined to have the same size, shape and configuration as said target feathering area.

33. A method in a computer for removing an area from a raster image, comprising the steps of:

causing an image to be displayed to a user;

providing a target area definition tool to the user;

receiving target input from the user via said target area definition tool;

defining a target area in the image based on said target input;

providing a feathering area definition tool to the user;

receiving feathering input from the user via said feathering area definition tool;

defining a target feathering area in the image based on said feathering input;

providing a template choice tool to the user;

receiving template area and template feathering area input from the user via the template choice tool; and

causing an area defined by said template area and template feathering area input to be displayed in said target area and said target feathering area, respectively.

34. The method of claim 33, further comprising receiving resizing input from the user and resizing said target feathering area.

35. The method of claim 33, further comprising changing the area displayed in said target area and said target feathering area based on said template area and template feathering area input.

36. A method for adjusting a feathering area in a raster image, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving a first input from a user selecting a processing area on which to apply a process in a raster image, wherein said raster image comprises a plurality of pixels, said processing area comprises a subset of said plurality of pixels;

(b) defining a feathering area enclosing said processing area, having an inner edge abutting said processing area, and comprising a second subset of pixels not including said first subset of pixels;

(c) receiving a second input from the user by way of an input device movement in relation to a center of said processing area;

(d) changing the size of said feathering area based on said input device movement;

(e) applying said process on said processing area of said raster image;

(f) feathering the intensity of the application of said process on said second subset of pixels in said feathering area;

(g) repeating said steps (c), (d) and (f) each time the input device is moved to a different location in said raster image; and

(h) receiving a third input from the user accepting the results of said feathering.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein said process comprises a modification at least one of the color and the intensity of said subset of pixels.